

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo ~~dyes~~ dye compounds, comprising

preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine;

reacting at least an equimolar amount of at least one diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acid with vesuvin to form at least two ~~dyes~~ dye compounds;

isolating the ~~dyes~~ dye compounds in their acid form; and

dissolving the ~~dyes~~ dye compounds in at least one aqueous base;

wherein the reaction is performed without isolating the vesuvin,

wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid has the formula:



wherein Ar is phenylene.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 7, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with an additional sulfonic acid group.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~The process of claim 10,~~ A process for preparing a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dye compounds, comprising

preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine;  
reacting at least an equimolar amount of at least one diazotized aminoarylsulfonic  
acid with vesuvin to form at least two dye compounds;  
isolating the dye compounds in their acid form; and  
dissolving the dye compounds in at least one aqueous base;  
wherein the reaction is performed without isolating the vesuvin,  
wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid has the formula:

$$\text{H}_2\text{N} - \text{Ar} - \text{SO}_3\text{H}$$

wherein Ar is naphthalene, and  
wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with two additional sulfonic acid groups.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~The process of claim 10,~~ A process for preparing a  
liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dye compounds, comprising  
preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine;  
reacting at least an equimolar amount of at least one diazotized aminoarylsulfonic  
acid with vesuvin to form at least two dye compounds;  
isolating the dye compounds in their acid form; and  
dissolving the dye compounds in at least one aqueous base;  
wherein the reaction is performed without isolating the vesuvin,  
wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid has the formula:

$$\text{H}_2\text{N} - \text{Ar} - \text{SO}_3\text{H}$$

wherein Ar is naphthalene, and  
wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with a hydroxyl group.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~The process of claim 11,~~ A process for preparing a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dye compounds, comprising  
preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine;  
reacting at least an equimolar amount of at least one diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acid with vesuvin to form at least two dye compounds;  
isolating the dye compounds in their acid form; and  
dissolving the dye compounds in at least one aqueous base;  
wherein the reaction is performed without isolating the vesuvin,  
wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid has the formula:



wherein Ar is naphthalene,  
wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with an additional sulfonic acid group, and  
wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is additionally substituted with a hydroxyl group.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 12, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is additionally substituted with a hydroxyl group.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 7, wherein the azo dyes dye compounds are prepared from an o-aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component, a m-aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component, a p-aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component, or a combination thereof.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the vesuvin and the diazo components are used in a stoichiometric ratio ranging from 1 : 1 to 1 : 4.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 7, wherein the reaction of at least one diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acid with vesuvin is carried out at a pH ranging from 4 to 8.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 7, wherein the at least two ~~dyes~~ dye compounds are isolated by adjusting the pH to a value ranging from 0 to 4.5.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 7, wherein the at least two ~~dyes~~ dye compounds are crystallized by stepwise acidification.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 7, wherein the at least two ~~dyes~~ dye compounds are crystallized at a temperature ranging from 20 to 70°C.